

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An apparatus for connecting a microphone alternately to a telephone line and an alternative device, said apparatus comprising:

a device connector for connecting said apparatus to said alternative device;

a telephone connector for connecting said apparatus to said telephone line;

a microphone connector for connecting said apparatus to said microphone; and

a switching circuit connected to said device, telephone and microphone connectors, said switching circuit connecting said telephone connector to said microphone connector in response to sensing a voltage greater than a predetermined threshold on said telephone line, and said switching circuit connecting said microphone connector to said alternative device connector when the voltage sensed on said telephone line is less than said predetermined threshold voltage.

2. An apparatus as in Claim 1 wherein said switching circuit is included in a computer telephone integration (CTI) module.

3. An apparatus as in Claim 1 wherein said device is a personal computer.

4. An apparatus for connecting a headset alternately to a telephone line and an alternative device, said apparatus comprising:

a device connector for connecting said apparatus to said alternative device;

a telephone connector for connecting said apparatus to said telephone line;

a microphone connector for connecting said apparatus to said headset; and

a switching circuit connected to said device, telephone and headset connectors, said switching circuit connecting said telephone connector to said headset connector in response to sensing a voltage greater than a predetermined threshold on said telephone line, and said switching circuit connecting said headset connector to said device connector when the voltage sensed on said telephone line is less than said predetermined threshold voltage.

5 10 5. An apparatus as in Claim 4 wherein said switching circuit is included in a computer telephone integration (CTI) module.

6. An apparatus as in Claim 4 wherein said device is a personal computer.

7. A method for connecting a microphone alternately to an alternative device and a telephone line, said method comprising the steps of:

15 connecting said microphone, telephone line, and alternative device to a switching device;

sensing the voltage on said telephone line; and

switching said microphone to said telephone line whenever said voltage is greater than a predetermined threshold voltage, and to said alternative device whenever said voltage is less than said predetermined voltage.

20 8. A method as in Claim 7 wherein said switching is implemented by a computer telephone integration (CTI) module.

9. An apparatus as in Claim 7 wherein said device is a personal computer.

10 A method for connecting a headset alternately to an alternative device and a telephone line, said method comprising the steps of:

connecting said headset, telephone line, and alternative device to a switching device;

5 sensing the voltage on said telephone line; and

switching said headset to said telephone line whenever said voltage is greater than a predetermined threshold voltage, and to said alternative device whenever said voltage is less than said predetermined voltage.

11. A method as in Claim 10 wherein said switching is implemented by a
10 computer telephone integration (CTI) module.

12. A method for switching between a personal computer and a telephone, comprising the steps of:

issuing a voice command to switch from a telephone call to a personal computer.

13. A method as in Claim 12 wherein said switching is implemented by a
15 computer telephone integration (CTI) module.

14. An apparatus for switching between a personal computer and a telephone, comprising:

a device connector for connecting said apparatus to said personal computer;

a telephone connector for connecting said apparatus to said telephone line;

a microphone connector for connecting said apparatus to said microphone; and

a switching circuit connected to said device, telephone and microphone connectors, said switching circuit connecting said telephone connector to said microphone connector in response to recognizing a first voice command, and said switching circuit
5 connecting said microphone connector to said device connector in response to recognizing a second voice command.

15. An apparatus as in Claim 14 wherein said switching circuit is included in a computer telephone integration (CTI) module.

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16. An apparatus as in Claim 14 wherein said device is a personal computer.

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